

# CAPITOL REPORT

News & Updates from Your State Capitol  
By Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin

## Redistricting, Primary are focus for Elections

The Elections division has spent the past several months supporting local jurisdictions in their redistricting efforts and preparing for a busy election year.

"This has been a very active year for our Elections division," Secretary of State Mark Martin said.

This year's ballots involve numerous state and district races. Due to redistricting after the decennial census, all 135 Arkansas legislative seats are up for election. The four Congressional District seats and 16 judicial seats, including one Supreme Court justice, are also on ballots.

Redistricting is conducted after every census to make sure the populations of districts are nearly

the same, so that each person's vote has the same weight as another's vote. At the local level, redistricting means county quorum courts, city councils and school board zones also face significant change. Some counties experienced more changes than others, due to population shifts.

"The county clerks and election commissioners deserve public appreciation for their work," Martin said. "Many people are unaware of how much work went into the redistricting process and how complex the maps are."

He added, "We know the counties have done a great deal of work, and I appreciate their efforts."

The Secretary of State's office has worked closely with local jurisdictions to assist in redistricting.

"We have supported a number of counties, municipalities and school districts through this process," Martin said.

He added, "The purpose of redistricting is to make sure all Arkansans are equitably represented. I hope all eligible people will make their voices heard by voting."

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More than 300 candidates filed to run for state and district offices during the 2012 filing period at the State Capitol.



## The Secretary's Minute

*We got a big start this year, and we'll stay busy throughout 2012. It's an important time both in Arkansas and across the nation, and I'm pleased that we're part of it.*

*It's natural that all eyes are on our Elections division right now. We held candidate filing from Feb. 23 to March 1, and 301 candidates filed for 156 state and district offices. Now we are preparing for the May primary and nonpartisan judicial elections. That includes training county clerks on new electronic ballot systems for military and overseas voters and implementing a new, user-friendly election night reporting system.*

*I'm also pleased to announce that Daryl Bassett has joined my staff as director of the Business and Commercial Services division. Daryl's background as a former state*

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*budget director, his work as a liaison with several state agencies and his time with the Arkansas Public Service Commission and Department of Workforce Services uniquely qualify him to work with our business community.*

*He joined us just in time for the collection of franchise taxes, which were due on May 1. We implemented a social media campaign to raise awareness of this requirement for all incorporated businesses operating in Arkansas. The first \$8 million of franchise tax collections is deposited in the state's general fund; all additional monies go to the Education Adequacy Trust.*

*We are continuing the work of preserving and restoring the State Capitol. The House and Senate chamber roofs have leaked for years. We have obtained grant funding from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Foundation to replace the copper skin of the glass skylights in the two domes and stop the leaks.*

*We've improved the Capitol's energy use with new lighting, motion sensors to reduce electricity use and more efficient cooling towers.*

*Our Education team held another successful Young Voters workshop this spring, teaching over 100 students from 11 counties about the historic and modern importance of voting.*

*We plan to continue and expand our work, and I'm excited to see what this year holds. Do not hesitate to let me know how my office can serve you.*

*Mark Martin*

**Arkansas Secretary of State**

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## Arkansas businesses: Did you make the May 1 deadline?

Businesses that missed the May 1 deadline for filing annual reports and franchise taxes still have a chance to file before their company moves to revoked status.

"Every incorporated business, whether domestic or foreign, pays an annual fee to do business in Arkansas," Secretary Martin said. "Unfortunately some business owners don't realize that those fees continue to accrue — even if their business is closed — until they formally dissolve with the Secretary of State's office."

Most corporations pay the minimum franchise tax rate of \$150. The taxes are payable between January and May 1 annually. Delinquent taxes and penalties must be paid by December 31 to avoid revoked status with the state.

Corporations have the option of filing online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by visiting the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov). The easy-to-use system provides automatic calculations to eliminate math errors that can slow down processing time. The system generates e-mail confirmations and copies of each completed filing. Credit cards and electronic checks are accepted.

Corporations can also file in person at the Business & Commercial Services division in the Victory Building, 1401 W. Capitol, Suite 250, in Little Rock or by mailing their tax forms to: P.O. Box 8014, Little Rock, AR 72203-8014. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For additional information, call (888) 233-0325.

## The state flags that might have been

In 1912, Secretary of State Earle Hodges and the Pine Bluff chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a contest to design Arkansas's first official state flag. Some 65 designs were submitted.

Reproductions of all surviving entries are now featured in a special exhibit, *Flying for the State*, on display through Memorial Day weekend at the State Capitol.

The exhibit showcases the variety of imagery in the submissions. Several incorporated diamonds, while others highlighted cotton, trees, apple blossoms or even bears. One distinctive design combined a yellow crescent moon with steamboats sailing on a river. Another

*Designs submitted for the 1912 Arkansas flag design contest, on display through Memorial Day at the State Capitol.*

featured a cotton boll on a field of blue, adorned with "I'll Try, Sir!" — the motto of territorial governor James Miller.

In the end, a simple diamond design won over the selection committee. Created by Jefferson County schoolteacher Willie Kavanaugh Hocker, the flag incorporated multiple symbols: the colors of the U.S. flag; 25 stars in a diamond border to represent admission to the Union; a white diamond denoting the only diamond-producing state — all symbols that remain in the state flag familiar to us today.

Miss Hocker's design called for a row of three stars aligned in the center of the diamond, acknowledging the three nations that have ruled Arkansas and marking Arkansas as the third state created from the Louisiana Purchase. The selection committee modified the design to include the word "Arkansas." On February 26, 1913, the state legislature approved it as the state's official flag. Slight modifications were made within a few years, but the flag we fly proudly today has remained unchanged since 1924.

The exhibit is presented by the Secretary of State's office in conjunction with the Arkansas History Commission, which preserves the original entries in its collection. The exhibit is open on the first floor during the Capitol's regular hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Watch for the summer exhibition, set to begin in June, that will feature artifacts from the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum in Lincoln.







## Restoring the glass domes

*Crews are working to restore the glass skylights over both legislative chambers. Here, craftsmen refurbish copper flashing and improve seals against moisture for the House of Representatives dome. The project is funded by a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.*



## Quapaw Quarter Assoc. honors Martin, others

The QQA presented Secretary of State Mark Martin with a Greater Little Rock Preservation Awards. Secretary Martin was honored along with Attorney Josh Gillispie and the Downtown Neighborhood Association Board of Directors for coordinated efforts to uphold Capitol Zoning guidelines around the State Capitol.

Others honored for 2011 include Arkansas Baptist College for the rehabilitation of Old Main and several houses surrounding the campus; efforts to restore the Herschell-Spillman Carousel at the Little Rock Zoo; and Paul Dodds for the rehabilitation of several houses in the Central High School area.

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## ELECTIONS, continued from page 1

Martin reminded the public of the importance of voting.

“Elections are the cornerstone of our system of government, and I encourage people to register and vote. May 22 is the general election for judges; and many judicial races won’t even be on the ballot in November.

Early voting for the Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election is May 7-21, and Election Day is May 22.

To check your voter registration status, visit [www.voterview.org](http://www.voterview.org) or use your mobile device to scan the QR code on page 6 and check your info on the go.



# Give our notary workshops your seal of approval

The spring tour of continuing education workshops for notaries public is now underway.

The free 90-minute seminars are geared toward both prospective and current notaries public in Arkansas. The Secretary of State's office encourages notaries to attend to gain important information about the ever-changing Arkansas notary public laws and regulations.

Upcoming dates include:

**Rogers** — May 17, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Little Rock** — June 20, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Registration in advance is required. For your convenience, we offer three registration options:

- Log on to [www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/) and visit the *Notary Public* link.
- E-mail [danielle.fusco@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:danielle.fusco@sos.arkansas.gov)
- Call (501) 682-3409 or (888) 233-0325.

Private training sessions are also available on-site for companies and organizations. Call or e-mail to schedule a workshop with your group.

Watch for schedule updates on our website, [www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/).

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## State Capitol featured as lighting case study

The State Capitol appeared as a case study for a popular lighting company this spring, according to Secretary of State Mark Martin.

Architectural lighting manufacturer The Lighting Quotient™ features the Capitol in its Case Studies Volume 3.

"The manufacturer selected the Capitol as one of its featured projects based on work performed in 2008-09 during Charlie Daniels' administration," Martin said. "Charlie contracted with Clements & Associates Architecture here in Little Rock, and our Mechanical & Electrical division did the engineering."

Martin said the Capitol's inclusion in Case Studies Volume 3 is a testament to the project's vision as well as the manufacturer's products.

"Seeing the Capitol lighted at night is fascinating," he said. "The new exterior lights make it look even grander and more imposing, and I invite people to view the building at night to see how beautiful it really is."



Martin said with powerful and efficient lighting installed outside, his administration's focus has been on improving the Capitol's interior lights.

"We've continued improving efficiency," he said. "We have installed motion sensors in public areas to keep lights off when they're not needed. That cut the lighting meter by 12 percent in January of this year, compared to last January."

Work will continue, he said. "The State Capitol is one of the state's most beautiful buildings, and we want to make sure that it is both historically preserved, and energy efficient."



# Voting workshop strives to empower young Arkansans



More than 100 students from 14 schools across the state participated in the spring edition of the Arkansas Young Voters workshop, hosted March 13-15 by the Secretary of State's office.

"This is one of our most popular student programs, and educating voters and future voters is one of our most important activities," said Secretary of State Mark Martin.

The semi-annual program educates high school students about the importance of voting and about the civil rights and women's suffrage movements. Students learn about the impact of voting on their own lives and discuss current events. The program is held each March and September.

"I'm looking forward to seeing these young people get involved," Martin said. "Voting is an American cornerstone, and I believe they take away a new appreciation of that process from this program."



# Capitol events celebrate Rockefeller centennial

A May 1 reception at the State Capitol marked the centennial birthday of the late Winthrop Rockefeller, Arkansas's 37th Governor. The event is part of a year-long celebration of his ongoing impact on Arkansas and the world.

A champion of civil rights, Rockefeller was the only southern governor to hold a public memorial following the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr, a gesture that many credit for the lack of riots that plagued other cities. That event was re-created on the State Capitol steps this year during the annual commemorative vigil on April 4.

Win, as he was known, was the first Republican governor elected since Reconstruction. He brought cultural, economic and political change during his administration. Among the notable accomplishments enacted during his administration were the state's first minimum wage, integration of the State Police force, freedom of information laws and the closing of Hot Springs' illegal gambling operations.

Rockefeller died in 1973, but his legacy carries on with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, which promotes economic development and education, as well as economic, racial and social justice. His son, Winthrop

Paul Rockefeller, served as Arkansas lieutenant governor from 1996 until his death in 2006.

For more information on centennial events and the Win Rockefeller legacy, visit [www.livethelegacy.org](http://www.livethelegacy.org)





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## Spring has Sprung!

*See the Capitol in all its spring glory!  
Visit in person and explore the sights  
with a free self-guided grounds tour  
(available at the first-floor Visitors Center).  
Or enjoy feature photos and videos from  
the Secretary of State's Creative Services  
team by visiting our online galleries.  
See page 2 for links.*

